

Part 1. Driver licenses and tests

This section of the manual contains two chapters on NJ driver licenses and tests. Your driver license is important to you. Having a driver license is a privilege, so treat it with care. This chapter tells you how to get a driver license and how to keep it up-to-date.

By the end of this section, you should know how to apply for a license, the tests you must pass to get a driver license, some reasons for failure and a sample test.

Your New Jersey driver license

- To **drive** a vehicle on the New Jersey roadways, you must carry your valid driver license, a valid permit or a provisional license.
- If your **home address** is in New Jersey, you must have a New Jersey license. Report a new address within one week when you move.
- For a legal **name change** (marriage, adoption) report the change within two weeks.
- If you have an **out-of-state license** and move into New Jersey, you must apply for a New Jersey license within 60 days (Commercial Driver License within 30 days) or before your current license expires, whichever is sooner. You must take a written and vision test, show in English proof of age **and** identity (see p. 7) **and** proof of a name change if applicable (example: you must present a civil marriage certificate to validate a name change due to marriage). When you receive your New Jersey license, you



CHAPTER 1

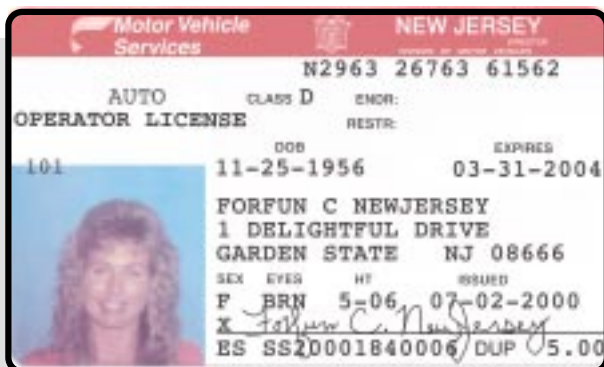
YOUR NJ DRIVER LICENSE



must surrender your **out-of-state** license; you may retain your **out-of-country** license.

Every driver applicant must present his/her full name, current address, Social Security number and birth record with proof of a name change, if applicable, and other documentation that verifies the applicant's presence is authorized by the U.S. government. Applicants under 18 years of age must also present a completed consent form signed by their parents or guardians.

Special learner permits are valid until all qualifications for a provisional license are met, or two years, whichever occurs first; examination permits are valid for two years or until the applicant receives his/her basic license.



AFFIX CORRECTION STICKER

Upon my death I am willing to donate the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> EYES	<input type="checkbox"/> HEART	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY ORGAN
<input type="checkbox"/> LIVER	<input type="checkbox"/> KIDNEY	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE

RESTRICTIONS

1. Corrective Lenses
2. Prosthetic Device
3. Mechanical Device

4. Hearing Impaired

5. Attached Restrictions

L. Excludes Vehicles with Air Brakes

M. Excludes Class A Passenger Vehicles

N. Excludes Class A & B Passenger Vehicles

O. Valid in Tow Trucks Only

P. Non CDL Passenger Only

Q. 15 Passenger or Less

R. Bus Mechanic Without Passenger

S. No School Age Passengers

ENDORSEMENTS

F. Moped

H. Hazardous Materials

M. Motorcycle

N. Tank

P. Passenger Vehicle

T. Double/Triple Trailer

The applicants are required to demonstrate responsible driving behavior in each stage of licensing before advancing to the next stage. If 16 years or older, the three stages include the student permit, provisional license and basic license; for applicants 17 years or older, the two stages include an examination permit and a basic license. The listed steps in each stage are explained in the following GDL section.



Graduated Driver License (GDL)

New Jersey joins 23 other states and several Canadian provinces in 2001 by implementing a multi-stage driver licensing system. The new system introduces driving privileges gradually to first time drivers and applicants under 21 years, extends their practice driving time and raises the unrestricted basic driver license age from 17 to 18 years.



Studies show a 5 to 16 percent reduction in crashes for young drivers in states with the GDL program. Insurance companies, automobile associations, federal and state safety organizations, physicians' groups and police support this program for this reason.

NEW JERSEY'S GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

The road to becoming a safe new driver



What is it?

New Jersey's Graduated Driver License (GDL) is a program teen and first-time drivers must complete to get their unrestricted basic driver license. The Graduated Driver License law comes into effect January 1, 2001.

Why have it?

The program is designed to reduce the number of driving fatalities among teen and first-time drivers and their passengers.

By having more experience, new drivers will be more capable of handling all types of driving situations.

How does it work?

Depending on your age, choose the route to get an unrestricted basic driver license.

THREE-STEP ROUTE



Special Learner's Permit (Student Permit)

Eligible Age: 16 **Fee:** \$10

Requirements:

- Pass vision and written tests.
- Complete behind-the-wheel training through an approved program to receive a valid permit for a minimum of 6 months of supervised driving.
- Obtain parent/guardian signature.
- Pass road test.



Examination Permit

Eligible Age: 17 or older **Fee:** \$10

Requirements:

- Pass vision and written tests to receive a valid permit for supervised and unsupervised driving.
- Drive supervised.
 - Under age 21: 6-month minimum
 - 21 and over: 3-month minimum
- Pass road test prior to driving unsupervised.
- Drive unsupervised.
 - Under age 21: 6-month minimum
 - 21 and over: 9-month minimum
- Obtain parent/guardian signature if under 18.

TWO-STEP ROUTE*



Provisional License

Eligible Age: 17

Requirements:

- Complete Student Permit requirements.
- Complete a minimum of one year unsupervised driving.



Basic License

Eligible Age: 18

Requirement:

- Complete Examination Permit requirements.



Basic License

Eligible Age: 18

Requirement:

- Complete Provisional License requirements.



* SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

FAQS ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S GDL

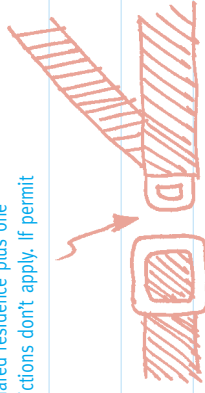
Are there restrictions when I have a permit or a provisional license?

Yes.

- **Student Permit** drivers must be accompanied by a NJ licensed driver, 21 years or older and licensed for at least 3 years. Driving hours are restricted to 5:01 am to 11 pm. They may only have passengers from shared residence plus one additional person.
- **Provisional License** drivers can drive between 5:01 am to midnight. They may only have passengers from their shared residence plus one additional person. (If Provisional License holder is under 21 and any passenger is 21 or older, passenger restrictions don't apply. If Provisional License holder is 21 or over, passenger and hour restrictions don't apply.)
- **Examination Permit** drivers must be accompanied by a NJ licensed driver, 21 years or older and licensed for at least 3 years. Driving hours are restricted to 5:01 am to midnight. They may only have passengers from their shared residence plus one additional person. (If permit holder is under 21 and any passenger is 21 or older, passenger restrictions don't apply. If permit holder is 21 or older, passenger and hour restrictions don't apply.)

What else should I know?

Everyone in the vehicle must wear safety belts—it's the law. Never use alcohol or drugs when driving. There's a \$100 fine for violation of any of the conditions of the permits or provisional license. Hours of operation waivers are available in certain emergency situations, for work and religious activities. For details and more information, check out our web site at www.state.nj.us/mvs



GDL driver exemptions

- Exemptions to the hours rule for permit and provisional drivers under 21 years: proof of a need to drive during the prohibited hours for employment and/or religion. For an exemption, the driver must carry a legible certification to indicate this need from his/her employer or religious official on the official letterhead of the business, organization or religious institution with the signature of the certifying official and his/her name, title, address and phone number.
- Exceptions to the age stipulations for driver applicants: those persons born in 1984 and have not reached 17 years will be grandfathered into the driver licensing system previously in effect in 2000.

Examination permits for NJ residents

Any New Jersey resident who is at least 17 years old and is not in suspension status can obtain a driver examination permit at any MVS agency. The exam permit is different from a student permit because you don't have to be a student and an instructor is not necessary.

Note: You need a driver examination permit although you hold a valid license from another state. See below for details.

After you fill out the form with your legal name and present in English proof of age, identity, name change, if applicable, and proof that the U.S. government authorizes your presence in this country, you can purchase a permit to take to the nearest driver testing center. Basic automobile license applicants must supply their Social Security number, or an exemption from the Social Security Administration.

Note: Most agencies conduct written and vision tests. For more information, please call general customer information at (888) 486-3339 toll free in New Jersey or (609) 292-6500 from out of state.

MVS will validate the permit for practice driving after you pass the required vision and written tests, explained in Chapter 2.

A NJ driver with a valid license, who has been licensed for three years or more, 21 years or older, in the same classification as your learner's permit must accompany you when you practice drive. Basic (auto) driver permits expire in two years; therefore, if you do not pass your road test within two years you can renew the permit at no cost to you. See Chapter 2 for information about road tests.

Examination permits for out-of-state or out-of-country drivers

All nonresident drivers are required within 60 days as permanent New Jersey residents, or when their out-of-state licenses expire, whichever comes first, to purchase examination permits. Nonresidents under 18 years are subject to the GDL requirements (see pp. 3-6). If they wish to apply for a New Jersey license they should follow the steps outlined for special permit and examination holders. To purchase the permit, go to any MVS agency, show the required proofs

of age, identity, name change if applicable (see below) and take the written test and vision screening. If you pass, you must surrender your out-of-state driver license before MVS issues you a New Jersey examination permit or driver license. If you are 18 or older, you may be exempt from the road test.

Noncitizens must show formal proof that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has authorized their presence in this country under federal law, and allows licensing or the issuance of a nondriver identification card.

Persons with temporary visa status who may apply for NJ driver licenses include: treaty traders; students and their families; temporary workers, accompanying spouses and minor children; foreign information representatives and their families; exchange visitors and their families; fiancées and their children; intracompany transfers, accompanying spouses and minor children; students in nonacademic and vocational schools and family members; persons with temporary protection from deportation; Canadians temporarily U.S. residents; religious ministers and spouses; parents of U.S. citizens; international athletes or entertainment groups; and persons in a reciprocal exchange program.

Students and their families on a visa must show INS Form I-20, student identification cards or certification on school letterhead indicating status.

Note: Foreign drivers may use their native driver licenses as proof of driving experience if their countries are members of the United Nations Convention on Road Traffic, and if the applicants have their licenses translated into English by a consulate or an MVS approved translator.

International Driving Permit (IDP)

Visitors with a foreign driver license who travel to the United States should carry an IDP or attach an acceptable English translation to their national driver licenses. The IDP is translated into the official languages of the United Nations (including English) and is useful in traffic emergencies. Noncitizens must obtain the IDP in their native country before they travel to the United States.

New Jersey drivers who travel to foreign countries may obtain an IDP application through their local American Automobile Association (AAA).

Note: A driver must carry a valid driver license. Although it is an official document, the IDP cannot replace a driver license, but can be used in conjunction with the license to provide an additional source of driver identification and span foreign language barriers.



Proofs of age and identity

All NJ driver license applicants must present proofs of age, identity and that their presence in this country is authorized under federal law. MVS may recheck your proofs at any time during the licensing process. MVS will accept current out-of-state driver licenses and New Jersey driver licenses if expired less than three years for the permit issuance and road test waiver, but you must produce one of the proofs on the next page to obtain a NJ driver license.

Your original U.S. civil birth certificate in English (or a certified copy) is your **primary proof of age and identity. Proofs of identity must verify that your presence in the U.S. is authorized under federal law.** Other proofs are acceptable only in situations where the birth certificate or a certified copy is no longer available. To be valid, **all proofs (e.g., birth certificate, copy of a birth certificate, marriage certificate)** that you present must be the original or a certified copy and have the required state or municipal seal.

Proofs of identity that do not include a birth date must be accompanied by another proof of age. **If your surname is different from the one on your primary proof of age and identity, you must document the name change with certified adoption, marriage or divorce papers, or a name change court order before MVS can complete the transaction. Name changes through divorce must be part of the divorce decree and/or contain an addendum signed by the hearing judge.**

The following proofs are listed in descending order of importance:

- original U.S. civil birth certificate in English or a U.S. Department of State birth certificate with U.S. Consulate Seal
- certified copy of U.S. birth certificate
- active or expired U.S. Passport
- valid foreign passport (with current, acceptable I-94 visa)
- valid U.S. alien registration card **or** valid work authorization card, combined with a Social Security card, **or** a U.S. certificate of naturalization
- U.S. citizenship papers
- U.S. Military I.D. Card (active duty only — no dependent cards), **or** Military discharge papers (DD-214)
- U.S. adoption papers with proof of legal presence in the U.S.
- original legal name change papers, civil marriage or divorce documents or certified copy of same with proof of legal presence in the U.S.
- any other document issued by the U.S. that establishes the applicant's proof of identity and date of birth, and verifies that the applicant's presence in the U.S. is authorized under federal laws.

Call (888) 486-3339 toll free in New Jersey or (609) 292-6500 from out of state for more information.



Permit, nondriver ID and license updates

Information on your permit, driver license or nondriver ID must be accurate. You should report changes and corrections immediately if possible. If you move, you must report **address changes** within one week to any agency or by phoning

(888) 486-3339 toll free in New Jersey or
(609) 292-6500 from out of state.

If you change your name legally, through a divorce, marriage, adoption or by election, or change the name of your corporation, report these **name changes** within two weeks.

For a corporate change of address, a company officer must write and sign a letter on company letterhead that includes the company name, Corpcode, former and new addresses, and mail it to: MVS, P.O. Box 141, Trenton, NJ 08666-0141.

To process any change by mail, send a copy of your permit, license or nondriver ID with required proofs and a list of changes to the above address. Replacement costs are \$3 for a nonphoto and \$5 for a photo.

See the chart on the p. 10 for details.

Note: Possessing or displaying an altered or counterfeited license may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, up to six months in prison and the loss of your driving privilege.

Lost or stolen permits, nondriver IDs and licenses

New Jersey law requires that you carry your valid permit when you practice drive and your valid license when you drive. In the event you lose your permit, or if it's stolen, any regional service center or agency will issue a duplicate permit for any class vehicle for \$3. You must provide proof that you're 17 years or older and proof of identity described in the preceding pages. Your licensed driving instructor must apply for the duplicate if you are under 17 years. Duplicate CDL permits are available only at a regional service center.

If your driver license is lost or stolen, report this to the police. You must appear in person at any agency to obtain a duplicate license. To ensure that someone else does not secure a license in your name, you must show proof of identity at the agency, such as your birth certificate or any of



Before you start out on a practice drive, check that your permit, the vehicle registration and insurance card and your instructor's license are current and in the vehicle. There's a \$100 fine if you do not have up-to-date documents.

the other documents listed under “Proofs of age and identity.” Other documents that will be accepted as satisfactory proof for the issuance of a duplicate license are:

- a copy of the police report describing the stolen license;
- a federal or state income tax form, when accompanied by a payroll check stub, credit card or some form of photo identification;
- a payroll check stub, accompanied by a credit or photo identification card.

The replacement fee for a lost or stolen license is \$5 for a photo license and \$3 for a nonphoto license.



Permit, nondriver ID and license corrections

If you change your name or address, or other personal data, MVS will correct your permit, nondriver ID or a driver license. Follow the chart on this page. **Proofs must be original documents or certified copies with the required state or municipal raised seal.**

Item	Reason	Proof
Name	Marriage	Marriage certificate
	Divorce	Birth certificate or certified copy, marriage certificate, divorce decree
	Adoption	Birth certificate or certified copy, court adoption papers
	Legal change	Birth certificate or certified copy, certified court order
Date of birth	Correction	Birth certificate or certified copy, Department of State birth certificate, U.S. Passport, alien registration card, U.S. citizenship papers, active military ID card, U.S. adoption papers, military discharge papers (DD214), U.S. naturalization certificate.
Address	Moved	None
Social Security number	Correction	Social Security card or pay stub
Weight, height	Correction or change	None
Sex	Medical sex change	Amended birth certificate

Replacement fees are \$3 for a nonphoto and \$5 for a photo.

To process changes by mail, send a copy of your permit, license, or nondriver ID with required proofs (see p. 10) and a list of the changes to MVS Data Base Correction Unit, P.O. Box 141, Trenton, NJ 08666-0141.

NJ driver licensing system

New Jersey's classified licensing system meets the safety requirements of the U.S. Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. Under the system, the operators of commercial vehicles, such as large trucks, buses and vehicles hauling hazardous materials, must satisfy more stringent testing standards than the drivers of automobiles or motorcycles.

However, before you can apply for commercial license endorsements, you must first earn a basic automobile license.

Types of New Jersey licenses

Basic Automobile License (Class D)	For all types of motor vehicles registered by the Division of Motor Vehicles, except motorcycles.
Commercial Driver License (Classes A, B and C)	For large trucks, buses and vehicles hauling hazardous materials.
Motorcycle License (Class E)	For most vehicles with less than four wheels — motor bikes and scooters included. Issued as a separate license, or as an endorsement (M) if the individual already holds a basic New Jersey automobile license.
Motorized Bicycle License (Class F)	For unlicensed drivers, 15 years and older. Not needed if operator has a Class A, B, C, D or E license.
Agricultural License (Class G)	For farming purposes only. May be granted to persons between ages 16 and 17 years. Same tests as for a Class D license and can be exchanged for a Class D license at age 17.
Boat License	For operating motorboats on fresh, nontidal waters such as lakes, creeks or rivers that are not affected by tidal conditions. No license is required for tidal waters. Anyone born after December 31, 1978 must present a boating safety certificate.

Four-year license

New Jersey issues a four-year license. The initial license must be a photo license, even if the driver was previously licensed in another state or jurisdiction. All commercial drivers and boat operators must have photo licenses. New Jersey

drivers who are 21 years and older may choose a photo or nonphoto basic license at time of renewal. Drivers under 21 are pictured in 3/4 profile.

The basic automobile photo license is only issued at motor vehicle agencies; the basic nonphoto license is issued by mail or at an agency. If you have a restriction on your license (such as the need to wear corrective lenses while driving) it will appear on your license in a coded form. Information about all license restrictions is available at any agency.

The chart below shows the age limits, license fees and required tests for each type of license. More information on the requirements for each license (except Agriculture and Boat) is detailed in manuals that are supplemental to the **NJ Driver Manual**. Required tests are based on *both* manuals. You can obtain a Commercial, Motorcycle or MOPED manual at any MVS agency, or call (888) 486-3339 toll free in New Jersey or (609) 292-6500 from out of state to receive the required manuals through the mail.

An endorsement added to a license will expire with the license. When an endorsement is added to an existing license, the charge for the endorsement is prorated to cover the period remaining until expiration.

License type, expiration	Age minimum	Permit fee	Photo license fee	Nonphoto license endorsement fee	Tests required**
Basic, 4 yrs	18 Permit: age 16	\$10	\$18	\$16	KVR
Motorcycle, 4 yrs	18	\$5	\$15	\$13	KVR
Commercial, 4 yrs	18/21***	\$35	\$34	n/a	CKVR
MOPED, 4 yrs*	15	\$5	\$2	n/a	KVR
Boat, 4 yrs, nontidal waters only	16	n/a	\$18	\$16	n/a
Agriculture, 4 yrs*	16	\$5	\$3	n/a	KVR

*or until you obtain your basic license at 18 years.

**K-Knowledge, V-Vision, R-Road, C-Commercial

***CDL applicants must be at least 18 years old. Applicants under 21 may travel only in New Jersey (intrastate, not interstate) and may not receive HAZMAT or passenger endorsements. Out-of-state CDL transfer fees are \$10.

Note: Fees in this manual are subject to change. To confirm fees, call (888) 486-3339 toll free in New Jersey or (609) 292-6500 from out of state.

Nondriver IDs

Eligible individuals 17 years or older, without valid learners' permits or driver licenses may apply for a nondriver identification card. To obtain an identification card, you must show proof of age, identity and that your presence in this country is authorized under federal law. The cost is \$6.

Special license for hearing impaired

To obtain a special driver license with the international symbol of the deaf or a numerical code designating hearing impairment of 41db loss or more,

- complete an application for hearing impaired code/symbol.
- obtain the verification of a physician or audiologist.
- present a completed application at license renewal time at any MVS agency and receive the special license at no extra charge; or request a correction to your current license with the code for the \$3 (nonphoto) or \$5 (photo) fee.

Commercial Driver License (CDL)

There are three classes of a commercial license, A, B, and C. However, no one can apply for these licenses until they satisfy all requirements for a basic Class D automobile license.

The **Class A** license is necessary for the operation of tractor trailers or any truck or trailer with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 or more pounds, provided the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds. The Class A license also allows the driver to operate all vehicles in the class B, C and D categories, provided the driver has qualified for all the proper extra endorsements. See the chart on page 11.

The **Class B** license is necessary for the operation of any vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds; or

- a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds towing a trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds; or
- a bus with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

A Class B license allows the driver to operate all vehicles in the Class C and D categories, provided the driver has qualified for all the proper extra endorsements.

The **Class C** license is necessary for **any** vehicle with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds used and placarded to transport hazardous material; or

- any bus, including school buses, designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver, and with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds and all school vehicles designed for 15 or less passengers, including the driver; or
- any bus or other vehicle designed to transport 8 to 15 passengers, including the driver, which is used for hire.

Commercial driver exemptions

Taxi drivers, ridesharing van drivers, firefighters, operators of rescue or first aid squad vehicles, farmers hauling their own products and equipment within 150 miles of their farms, non-civilian operators of military equipment and operators of construction equipment not designed for operation on public roads are exempt and need not apply for a commercial driver license. Operators of recreational vehicles are also exempt, provided the vehicle is being operated only for personal use.

Commercial license endorsements

Most commercial drivers will need to obtain at least one special endorsement.

The endorsements are:

- **Double and Triple Trailer.** For operators of vehicles pulling two or three trailers. A Class A license is required to operate this type of vehicle.
- **Passenger.** For operators of all buses or similar vehicles designed to transport passengers.
- **Tank Vehicle.** For operators of vehicles that transport liquids or gas in bulk.
- **Hazardous Materials.** For operators of vehicles transporting hazardous materials.

Commercial license restrictions

Numbered restrictions, such as corrective lenses “1” are noted on all noncommercial and commercial licenses. An example of a special restriction on a commercial license is “L” for air brakes . This means you cannot operate vehicles equipped with air brakes.

Commercial Driver Manual

For more information on commercial motor vehicle licensing, visit any agency or regional service center and pick up a copy of the New Jersey Commercial Driver Manual. All CDL tests are based on information contained in the manual.

Americans with Disabilities Act

MVS complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the policy that government agencies cannot deny programs and activities to anyone because of disabilities. Everyone who uses government services should have the right to independent, not dependent, access to information. One example is that disabled people can access information about permits, licenses, vehicle inspection and registration, driving laws and regulations.

Some programs MVS provides are: Teletype Digital Display (TDD) machine phone access to general information; two 24-hour general information lines; an MVS Web site; physical access to our facilities and parking; clear and concise publications in English (some in Spanish); oral, written and automated driver testing; basic driver testing in 15 languages and English; availability of placards and license plates for disabled persons; and nondriver identification cards.

Organ Donor Program/ Uniform Anatomical Gift Act

The State of New Jersey and the U.S. Government passed the **Uniform Anatomical Gift Act**. This allows an individual to donate his/her organs upon death for the purpose of transplantation or medical research. The success rates for all types of transplants are excellent.

By donating your organs upon death, you can save a life. Anyone age 18 or over, and those under age 18, with the consent of a parent or guardian, may be considered for organ donation.

To donate the gift of life to another human being, follow these steps:

- Make the decision to donate. Discuss it with your family and/or next of kin. It's important they understand your decision. They'll be contacted in the event of your death.
- Check the back of your driver license, specifying the organ(s) you are willing to donate.
- Express your desire to donate in a will or on a **donor card** (witnessed by two people). Checking your license is simply a declaration of your intent to be a donor.

To obtain a **donor card**, or for more information about organ and tissue transplantation, please call the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network at (800) Share-NJ.



Your NJ driver license is important. When you receive your license, sign it and check the back if you are a member of the organ donor program. Be sure to renew on time.



Renewal of licenses

You must carry your valid license when driving, so it's important that you renew your license before it expires. If you do not renew your license for three years or are not allowed to renew because of a license suspension, you must reapply and retake the vision, written and road tests. It is up to you, therefore, to renew your license. If you do not get a renewal form by mail, renew your license in person at any agency. Make sure you take your expiring or expired license, your Social Security number and proof of identity with you. See the list of agencies in the back of this book and "Proofs of age and identity" on p. 7. When you renew your basic license, you must also renew the endorsements (motorcycle, commercial vehicle, boat) to drive or operate the endorsed vehicle.

The new license will contain only motor vehicle information and display a tamper proof color picture of the licensee.

If you enter the military and have a valid New Jersey license, renew your license before it expires.



Voter registration form

To expedite the voter registration process, MVS sends voter registration applications with all driver license renewals and changes of address.

The forms are also available at MVS agencies.